



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Fort Worth District**

# News Release

Release No. CESWF-PA-01-019 Contact: Ron Ruffennach

For Release: Immediate 20 Mar 01 Phone: (903) 665-2549

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## **Corps decreases water releases from Lake O' the Pines to inspect wall**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lake O' the Pines decreased releases from the reservoir today to inspect a wall in the reservoir's outlet works stilling basin.

A segment of the concrete splitter wall in the outlet works stilling basin fell into the basin on Monday, March 19. Corps officials were unable to determine the size of the wall segment that fell because of high and turbulent water in the basin. The Corps has been releasing stored flood waters from the reservoir at 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). At this rate, most of the splitter wall is below the water surface and not visible.

Today, the Corps decreased the water releases to 1,100 cfs after an earlier decrease to 2,000 cfs Monday. The decreases allowed Corps inspectors to see more of the remaining splitter wall and determine the size of the fallen segment. With the inspection complete, the Corps will gradually, over a two-day period, increase water releases back to 3,000 cfs.

The structural integrity of the dam at Lake O' the Pines has not been affected in any way. The Corps will be conducting 24-hour surveillance to ensure there is no further impact to the splitter wall.

Repairing the splitter wall would require cutting releases from the reservoir to 0 cfs. Because of the need to release stored flood waters from Lake O' the Pines, the Corps plans to dewater the basin this summer and then remove the fallen wall segment and repair the splitter wall.

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Lake O' the Pines has been storing flood waters because of heavy rains in the area, which began in late December and continued through March. The top of the reservoir's conservation pool this time of year is 228.5 feet above mean sea level. As of today, March 20, the reservoir's elevation is 244.58 with 70 percent of its flood pool filled.

- 30 -

**Editor's Note:** Ron Ruffennach, spokesman for the Corps' Fort Worth District, is currently on site at the Lake O' the Pines Project Office and available for media interviews. You can reach him at 903-665-2549 or (cell) 817-291-2953.